

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 21, 2004, claims 1 and 12 are amended. Claims 1, 3-5 and 12 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hosotsubo (USPN 6,009,485) in view of Tabata (USPN 6,198,542), for the reasons of record.

In Hosotsubo, all of terminals A to Z (and attribute of each terminal; e.g., network ID, floor) are registered in a table as shown in Fig. 9. A user selects terminals to be included in a specific group from the table, and the selected terminal can be included in the specific group by inputting the group name (See Fig. 3).

Accordingly, Hosotsubo requires the precondition that the above-mentioned table has been prepared. That is to say, the arrangement disclosed by Hosotsubo functions under the condition that *a server recognizes all terminals*.

In contrast, the present invention does not need to recognize all terminals by the server (image server 110). For example, when an outlying office adopts a new terminal (digital combined apparatus 320), the image server does not know the new terminal. Such condition is quite normal. At such time, since the new terminal is not known, the above-mentioned table of Hosotsubo could not be prepared.

Furthermore, such table preparation is not required in the present invention. In such case, the user accesses the image server 100 from the digital combined apparatus 320 (new terminal) through Network, and requests the group registration. At this time, data for identifying the

digital combined apparatus (new terminal) on the Network, (e.g., address), is sent to the image server 110 together with the above-mentioned request. Since the image server 110 can specify such component that sends the registration request, there is no necessity for preparing the table. It should be noted that the image server 110 can specify the digital combined apparatus according to the data such as network address, which is a well-known method regarding network technology.

In the specification, page 16, the last line, “send” is clearly executed automatically. That is to say, for the image server 110 to specify the digital combined apparatus 320, the image server presumably knows the (network) address. Furthermore, on page 17, line 12, it is described that that the system is designed so that ***the domain name*** is sent along with the registration request. Thus, as described here, the domain name is not inputted by the user who is operating the digital combined apparatus 320. In view of the above, it is clear that the data stored in the memory of the digital combined apparatus 320 is automatically sent out.

Thus, even if the server does not know the new terminal, the server can classify the new terminal into a specific group.

At any rate, to expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to delineate:

the digital multifunction apparatus communicates with the image server via the network and the digital multifunction apparatus is specified by a data identifying the digital multifunction apparatus on the network.

In dependent claim 12 is similarly amended.

With regard to the Examiner’s comments under the section ***Response to Arguments and Amendment***, it is unclear just what the Examiner intends with the statement that “Hosotsubo clearly teaches the registering for the new information of the host computer to the specified

destination group. Col. 5, lines 25-32, ID and user name is registered with each of printers 1 connected to the host computer on the predetermined network 21. Thus, the user would be considered as the computer registered with each of printers.”

What the Examiner intends by this is unclear. However, this does not change the fact that the registration disclosed in Hosotsubo is for classifying, at the server (or printer acting as the server), a user into a group using a table that has been previously stored in the server (or printer acting as the server), while the claims of present application enable a terminal apparatus to be registered by designating, from the terminal apparatus, one of the group names that is sent back to the terminal apparatus in response to a request that is made from the terminal apparatus.

What is actually described at column 5, lines 25-56 is that the keyboard 23 (or a non-illustrated pointing device) of the host computer 22 is used to initially register, in the RAM 31 of the host computer 22, users/terminals and attribute information of each user/terminal, for each laser beam printer 1 connected to the host computer 22. More specifically, and as noted above, *in Hosotsubo, all of terminals A to Z* (and attribute of each terminal; e.g., network ID, floor) ***are registered in a table*** as shown in Fig. 9. Subsequently, a user, via a group registration command that is input through the keyboard 23 (or the non-illustrated pointing device), selects terminal(s) ***to be included in a specific group*** from the table using the keyboard 23 (or the non-illustrated pointing device) also, and the selected terminal(s) can be include in the specific group by inputting the group name (See Fig. 3). See column 5, lines 41-56.

This entire procedure is done at the host computer 22 and is clearly directed to forming groups, not to assigning a new terminal to one of the plural groups registered in the server by using the new terminal, as required by the present claims. There is nothing disclosed or suggested in Hosotsubo regarding a new terminal or new laser beam printer being added to the

system. Furthermore, as noted in previous responses, Tabata discloses that a group can be listed on a display on the server side only. Tabata does NOT disclose or suggest that the group can be listed on the side of the digital multifunction apparatus. Thus, even if the teaching of Tabata were combined with the arrangement of Hosotsubo, the claimed invention does not result as the resulting communication system would not have:

input manipulation means, provided in each digital multifunction apparatus, which can request the image server to send back all the destination groups, and specify a specific group from among all the destination groups sent back from the image server, and send to the image server at least the specified group together with a group registration request to register the digital multifunction apparatus with the specified group after specifying the group ...
(Emphasis added)

as recited in claim 1, or carry out:

requesting from a digital multifunction apparatus for the image server to send back all the destination groups;
sending all the destination groups from said image server to said digital multifunction apparatus in response to the request from the digital multifunction apparatus for sending all the destination groups;

sending from an input manipulation means provided in the digital multifunction apparatus a request for registration of the digital multifunction apparatus with a destination group, and at least a specified destination group specified by the digital multifunction apparatus; and

registering said digital multifunction apparatus with the specified destination group according to the group registration request and the specified destination group sent from said digital multifunction apparatus ... (Emphasis added)

as recited in claim 12.

As neither Hosotsubo nor Tabata discloses the above noted features, or that the digital multifunction apparatus communicates with the image server via the network *and the digital multifunction apparatus is specified by a data identifying the digital multifunction apparatus*

on the network, amended independent claims 1 and 12, as well as dependent claims 3-6, are patentable over Hosotsubo and Tabata, and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

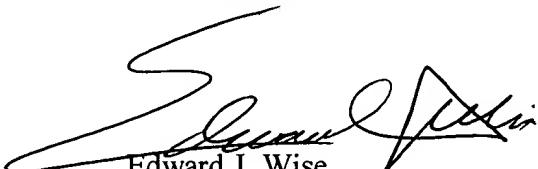
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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